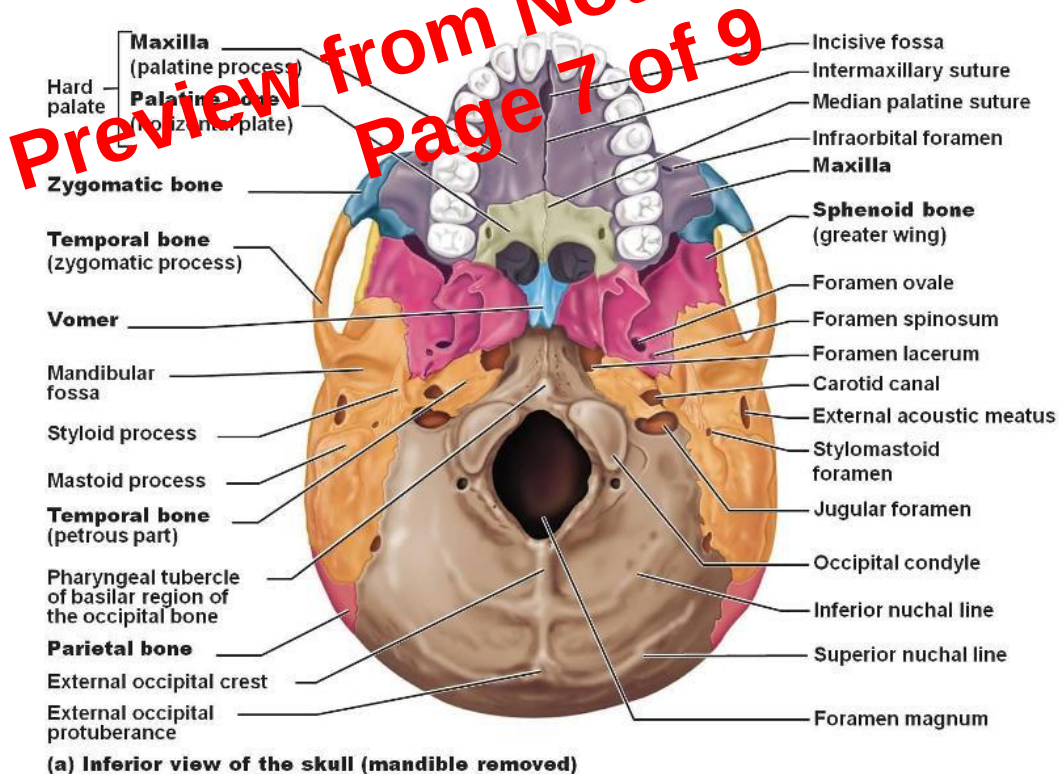


- Extend inferiorly at junction of the body and the greater wings
 - Groove for the cartilaginous part of pharyngotympanic (auditory) tube lies medial to spine of the sphenoid, inferior to where the great wing of sphenoid meets the petrous (rock-like) section of the temporal bone
- Depressions in the squamous part of the temporal bone (**mandibular fossae**) accommodate the **mandibular condyles** when the mouth is closed
- Posterior part of the cranial base is formed from the occipital bone (articulates with sphenoid anteriorly)
- The parts of the occipital bone are arranged around the foramen magnum
 - Lateral aspect of occipital bone are the **occipital condyles** – cranium articulates with the vertebral column
- Structures passing through the **foramen magnum**
 - **Spinal cord** (becomes continuous with medulla oblongata)
 - **Meninges**
 - **Vertebral arteries**
 - Anterior and posterior **spinal arteries**
 - **Spinal accessory nerve (CN XI)**
- **Jugular foramen** is located between the occipital bone and petrous part of the temporal bone – **internal jugular vein** and **CN IX-XI** pass
- **Carotid canal** anterior to the jugular foramen, in temporal bone – **internal carotid artery** passes
- **Stylomastoid foramen** lies posterior to styloid process – **facial nerve (CN VII)** and **stylomastoid artery** go via here



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